

The Old Paludians Newsletter – March 1998

****STAFF NEWS****

Miss G Allen (1934-39). Miss Allen's new "Clue Books" have now been published in pocket form by O.U.P. The publishers will send a set for the School. We thank her very much for this and congratulate her on her success.

Mrs D Delamere (Cole 1939-44). Granddaughter Clare is getting married in July at Stow near Galashiels.

Miss M L White (1947-71). In 1997, Miss White enjoyed holidays in Scotland and Jersey where she has several cousins. She still attends the Over 60's Club, W.I. and Gardening Club – also the Social Services Day Centre for handicrafts, quizzes, outings etc. She went to *five* Christmas dinners. We wonder what she does in her spare time!!!!!!

Miss Anne Harris (1961-68). Had hoped to attend this year but duties at All Hallows for Mothering Sunday prevent her. Sends love to all, especially Miss Saunderson.

Mrs D Hudson (1968-81). Mrs Hudson will be attending the christening of her daughter Alice's new baby during the Reunion weekend. (See news for Alice Hudson [1975-79].) Both send best wishes.

Mrs Gillian Dibden (1987-89). Choral music takes up most of her weekends but has promised to attend the Reunion when she retires.

Good wishes from: Mrs Beck, Mrs Benjamin, Miss Booth, Mrs Day, Miss Haywood, Mrs Pritchard, Mrs Sumner, Miss Wykes (SGS 50s & 60s and SHS 70s).

Attending Reunion: Mrs Bettridge, Miss Baker, Mrs Boul, Mrs Orchard, Mrs Purdue, Miss Rowland, Miss Saunderson, Miss Shaw, Mrs Taylor.

****IN MEMORIAM****

Mrs E Butler (Boxall). Mrs Butler suffered a stroke in April 1997 from which she never recovered.

Miss Pamela Reakes. Sadly Miss Reakes died in July 1997. She joined the staff of the High School in 1947 having graduated from Bedford College with a degree in History. A much respected teacher, she became Deputy Headmistress in 1965 and Headmistress in 1978. She took early retirement in 1982 when the School left its Twinchies Lane site and combined with the boys at Lascelles Road. Miss Reakes followed the fortunes of her former pupils with great interest and regularly attended Reunions until prevented by ill-health. In October a Memorial Service was arranged by the Old Paludians and was well attended by many lifelong friends, colleagues and her former pupils. She will always be remembered as the High School's last Headmistress and the many moving tributes paid to her memory at that Service emphasised the high regard in which she was held. The tributes have been reproduced (on display today) and ***anyone wishing to have a copy is asked to contact Valerie Storie or Gwen Gale – addresses at the end of this Newsletter.***

Mrs Joyce Ransley (Chilton). Mrs Ransley died last November and Miss Saunderson writes: "On the staff in the late 60s she was a great friend of Cynthia Darling and, like her, died suddenly. She taught geography and took part in several school plays. In Stevenage where she lived, she became an advisor on local geography helping both schools and the local government. She was a church worker and organised visits to the town with which Stevenage was twinned in Central Africa. Always full of laughter and enthusiasm her funeral, which I attended, was a large one with representatives of both the town and the High Commission from the African State present."

****1910s****

News of the oldest surviving Old Paludian!

George Lucas wrote to say that his Uncle **Fred** is now 99 years old and still quite fit. He and George's father, **Arthur Lucas**, became pupils at the old Secondary School in William Street on the day of its opening!!

**** 1920s****

Joyce Preddle (Hobson 1929-32). We were sad to hear that Joyce's sister, **Ena Hobson**, died on 7 March 1997. Ena was a pupil 1931-36 and later became secretary to Miss Crawford for a while. Joyce still helps with charity lunches and hopes to be with us in March.

Ron Bruce (1929-34). Many older members know Ron (80 this year) who has always been a keen sportsman and an active member of the Old Pals. Before Christmas he was hit by a car in Windsor Road and suffered injuries which could have been fatal for a less fit person. He has made a wonderful recovery and hopes to attend in March. We wish him well.

Good wishes from: Mary Williams (Kew 1921-26); Rinah Kew (1923-29), Mary's sister; Mrs G Bennett (Knight 1922-26) now at Newbeech House; Ethel Smith (1923-29) and her sister Connie Edwards (Smith 1920-26) – sadly Connie's husband died suddenly and we send her our sincere sympathy; Alfred Sands (1925-31) and sister Jean Bailey (Sands 1927-33).

****1930s****

Peter Bennett (1930-36). Still working on the History of the Old Paludians. We look forward to the finished product.

Peggy Needham (1931-36). After leaving school Peggy lived in Yorkshire until 1958. Since moving to Surbiton has attended many Reunions but is unable to leave her husband alone at present. She keeps in touch with **Dorothy Blinco**, **Joan Yeatman**, **Ethel Walker**, **Jean & Margaret Bayly** and "one or two of the boys".

Fred Deeks (1931-36). Fred will be away in March (*again!*). Sends good wishes, particularly to **Ernie Evans**.

E. Irene Anderson (1931-38). Finds living in Bath very stimulating and enjoyed a visit from **Gabrielle Moody** last summer.

Joan Clack (Waite 1932-38). Joan's days are very busy with charity work, three walking clubs, an allotment, family and grandchildren.

Len Thorne (1934-36 – and previously at Aylesbury and Tewkesbury Grammar Schools). Has just returned from a visit to his daughter in Texas. Len was a fighter pilot in WW2 and learned from a friend that a Spitfire flown by him was still in existence in USA. His daughter put an enquiry on the Internet and found that the 'plane is owned by a wealthy rancher in West Texas. On 16 December Len was able to sit in his old machine, take photos and re-live his youth. He says that, given the chance, he could have taken off for a patrol. Also sends good wishes, especially to Ernie.

Mavis MacKinnon (Cooper 1935-41). Mavis hopes to attend the Reunion this year. Lives in Maidenhead and is fortunate in having her daughters, Shelagh and Sandy, and their families living nearby.

Jean Varney (Burnett 1936-41). Jean is proud to have been one of Miss Crawford's first pupils in 1936. Moved to Derby in 1945, married and widowed twice, has two married sons living locally. Her Border collie, Misty, takes up much of her time with country walks. Works as a volunteer in Help the Aged shop, likes reading, gardening, listening to good music and dancing. Would like to hear from anyone who remembers her.

Iris Hull (aka Betty Burnett 1937-42). Sister of **Jean Varney**. Had surgery for gall bladder last March. Youngest son married a fellow (Danish) architect in Denmark last May. Touring medieval Spain this autumn. Iris and Jean's mother will be 93 in June.

Marian Ivall (Dalton 1938-43). Marian spent Christmas and New Year in South Africa with **Kathleen Bassett** (Kelly). Stayed in East London and visited Cape Town.

Joyce Amoroso (Kirtland 1939-45). Joyce's whole family (21 in all) was with her at New Year. Tenth grandchild, Melodie Jane, born in August. The "Swiss" branch of the family is doing well. Eldest grandson taking degree this year and a granddaughter doing 'O' levels. Joyce still plays bowls and Spalding is top in the Inter-County cup at present. Sends regards to everyone.

Mair Platt (Williams 1939-45). Daughter (Saraan de Guise) had her first baby, Beatrice, (7lb 15oz) on 20 February: 1st grandchild for Mair and James. *New address: 7 Greyfriars Walk, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 1UF.*

Audrey Tarrant (Elderfield 1939-44). Living on Vancouver Island and celebrating Golden Wedding on 13th March this year. Husband Phil, now retired, carves beautiful wooden rocking horses and a photo of one of these was on display together with Audrey's news at the Reunion. Three sons and 4 grandchildren live in Vancouver. Daughter aged 36 lives in Queensland, Australia. Audrey & Phil will be visiting her next winter. Keeps in touch with **Daphne Speed, Monica Darling, Joyce Ambrose, Sheila Jeffrey (NZ) and Pamela Dear**.

Good wishes from: Esmé Holloway (Berendt 1930-33), Arthur Day, John Dean (1930-36), Margaret Black (Sands 1932-37), Margaret Gillett (McGillivray 1932-37), Hilda Halls (Murphy 1932-37), Warwick Dyer (1932-39), Doreen Brant (Currie 1934-40), Betty Bristow (Hathaway 1936-40), Daphne Botting (May 1936-42), Ivy Harris (Cook 1936-43), Yvonne Jones (Overshott 1937-42), Edna Parrett (Hearn 1937-43), Pamela Main (Sheppard 1938-44), Margaret 'Micki' Vale (Flinn 1939-43), John Chapman (1939-44), Christine Gibbons (1939-45), Betty Foster (Thomas 1939-46).

Change of address: Marjorie Cruse (1931-35)

Peter Renacre (1933-37)

Nancy Harris (Webb 1934-38)

****IN MEMORIAM****

James (Jim) Anderson (1932-38). Jim died on 2 January 1998. He studied medicine at St Mary's, Paddington and worked in general practice before specialising in anaesthetics. He was senior consultant at Edgware and Colindale when he retired early, due to ill-health. He spent his last 12 years with his wife in Alfriston, Sussex. His father, **Thomas Anderson**, taught biology at the school from 1920 to 1953 and his sister, **Audrey Wye** (Anderson) was a pupil 1934-40.

****1940s****

John Long (1940-44). John played cricket and hockey for the Old Paludians after the war and *would like to renew old acquaintances*. Hopes to attend the Reunion in the afternoon despite having suffered a slight stroke in December.

Yvonne Wagstaff (Hutchins 1940-46). Yvonne expects that certain former staff and pupils will be AMAZED to learn that she achieved a BA Honours 2.2 degree and the Diploma of European Humanities last year after 4 years study. She currently hopes to obtain the Diploma of Modern Social History Research in September. Sends particular thanks to **Mrs Boul** (form mistress of 1X in 1940 – though she was Miss Aley then) for having sowed the late-flowering seeds of Academe!!! Our congratulations to Yvonne and as they say *"it's never too late!"*

June Ginger (Hunt 1941-47). Sends best wishes from her avocado grove in California and hopes to meet some of us for lunch when she visits the UK in May.

Barry Serjent (1944-49). Barry is now chairman of East Lane Theatre Club and will appear in "Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell" at the Club's theatre in Wembley (late March/early April). Good wishes sent to all of us.

Annette Chant (Pountain 1944-48). In February went on a 15-day cruise to Barbados, Grenada, 4 ports of call along the Amazon including a trip down the river in a motorised canoe, French Guiana, Tobago, then back to Barbados and home. Daughter Mary gets married in May. Sorry to miss the Reunion.

John Waller (1944-49) and **Pat** (Crane, pre-nursing left 1954). Went to NZ in 1965 then John spent 5 years in Iowa studying for his PhD returning to NZ as a lecturer at Lincoln University. Took early retirement in 1992 to work on the family's vineyard & asparagus farm. Now fully retired and living in Christchurch.

Dorothy 'Dee' Halliday (Linton 1949-53). Sister of **Alicia**. Attending the Reunion for the first time!

Penny Gniel (Norcott 1949-54). The following news was gleaned from an hour-long phone call with Valerie Storie in February. Penny lives in Greenock, South Australia, which is a 'village' of some 400 people approximately 50 miles north of Adelaide. She teaches calligraphy at a nearby college and takes on special commissions in this line. Has a sewing guild once a month at her home when fine patchwork in silks and velvets is the order of the day, some of her work has been exhibited locally. Last year painted murals on a church ceiling and has just finished renovating the walls of another chapel with her murals. Rides her horses and although she has given up regular endurance riding recently, has just returned from an 8-day trekking holiday in the Snowy Mountains – the horses were hired and everyone slept out under the stars. Recorded 44°C on her veranda on the day of the phone call. Has been in Australia since 1964 and is now a 'real Aussie'. Sends greetings **especially to Miss Saunderson** who was form mistress in her first year and inspired her to do her very best in geography.

Mary Shepherdson (Clements 1949-54). Hopes that a good number of "Forty-niners" will attend next year for their 50th year reunion. *NB Valerie had already prepared the notice at the end of this Newsletter when Mary's news arrived. Great minds really do think alike, don't they, Mary.*

Valerie Storie (1949-55). At last moving into the modern era with a computer, initially for family history but now its uses are widening – aren't e-mails a wonderful invention! Apart from the Old Pals, she is also secretary of the Slough Community Transport and ShopMobility scheme, which includes a dial-a-ride service for the disabled and elderly. No longer able to drive, she admits there's the odd string pulled on occasions! Still enjoys W.I. when able to get to the meetings. Enjoyed a brief reunion with **Morag Norman** (Cameron) in October, which hopefully will be repeated next March!

Good wishes received from: Joyce Cooper (Hearn 1941-46), John Tebbit (1941-47), Mavis Admans (Westbrook 1942-49), Jenny Harman (Pugh 1943-47), Michael James (1943-48), Maureen Lessels (Clancy 1947-53), Maureen Barry (Thompson 1948-53).

Change of address: **Graham Holmes** (1946-52)
Derek Webb (1948-53)

****1950s****

Enid Matthews (Watkins 1950-55). Enid is away in New Zealand visiting her daughter and grandchildren. Daughter Lyndy has just become a consultant psychiatrist, rather late in life as she took a long time out producing a family, her husband is also a consultant psychiatrist. Enid has enjoyed her year as Ladies Captain at Thetford Golf Club.

Jean Tyler (Ireland 1950-56). We owe our thanks to Jean for her continued hard work on the archives and for presenting the displays at the Reunions. She is now in her 3rd year of retirement and as busy as ever. Last year's project was to help with the editing of a book on the History of the Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital at Taplow. Jean worked in the Photographic Department there for 14 years prior to its closure in 1985 and was then transferred to Wexham Park Hospital in Slough. Jean has also sent news of **Norman Ketch** (1943-48) now living in Lyme Regis. He has just published a book entitled "A Golden Era" which is the story of the 1st Slough Boy's Brigade Company 1945-55. The emphasis is on the musical activities of the Company and is a tribute to Norman's father, Fred, who trained and conducted the Company's bands at this time. A copy of each of the above books will be given to the School library.

Clive and Marjorie Toogood (Clive 1951-56, Marjorie [Smith 1950-55]). Sorry to miss seeing us this year, away on holiday but send best wishes for a good day.

Susan Cheale (Clarke 1952-56). Took voluntary early retirement from East Berks College after 30 years service, now teaches part time at the Windsor Centre. Still involved with Maidenhead Hockey Club, although hip replacement prevents her from playing. Still sees **Pam Robinson** at matches and meetings. Friend **Julie Peake** (Albrow) was here from Australia least Easter when her father sadly died and returned for a few weeks at the beginning of this year to help her mother move from Cippenham to Cambridge.

Angela Clifford (Rix 1953-57). Husband Philip took early retirement and last year they flew to Sydney for their niece's wedding in May, then had a wonderful holiday touring New Zealand for 3 weeks. Daughter is a Home Office press officer and son is half way through a degree course started at the age of 25. Angela is still able to take her 1-1½ hour walks with schoolchildren at a local nature reserve and Philip is a volunteer at Brooklands Museum.

Michèle 'Shelley' Bovey (Southcott 1958-65). Has lived, worked and brought up her children in Somerset for 20 years and says that she loves the slow pace of things there. For the last 15 years has worked in broadcasting and print journalism, contributes regularly to the Independent and Guardian newspapers and has just begun work on her fourth book. Shelley says that her years at the High School seem like yesterday!

Jennifer Ballard (Biss 1959-62). Was in the 5th and 6th form. After music, French and German 'A' levels did some music and French teaching. Sang with L.S.O. Chorus and London Philharmonic Choir while living in Wimbledon. Was also Head of Music in Brigg, Lincs. for a time. Now runs a back-up service for small businesses, typing, WP, photocopying, fax etc. Keeps up her musical interests. Husband works for BA. Two children, Kate (14) and Tom (11).

Good wishes from: Pamela Green (Maton 1951-56), Ann Reed (Howell 1951-56), Valerie Henry (1951-58), Pamela Millis (Pywell 1952-56), Major Rosemary Dickens (Bowles 1952-58), Wendy Heath (1956-59), Diana Davis (King 1957-62) and Roger Columbine (1959-65).

Change of address: Wendy Stacey (Hughes 1951-56).
And **Bill Dacke** (1952-56).

****IN MEMORIAM****

Rosalind Ellis (Rossiter 1952-58). Joyce Haggerty kindly let us know that Ros had finally lost her long battle with cancer. Joyce also sent a copy of Ros's Memorial Service. Donations in her memory are in support of R.O.P.E. (Relief of Oppressed People Everywhere), 12 High Street, Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks, HP8 4QA.

****1960s****

Valerie Greenfield (1965-71). After using her German language for several years working for Lufthansa, Valerie changed careers and became an advice worker at a CAB type advisory centre. This led her to train as a solicitor and after a 2-year post graduate course qualified in 1995. Now with a legal aid practice in Bow, practising family law. Lives in South London with partner, Judy, a computer analyst. Sisters **Deborah** and **Janice** also attended the High School. Would be pleased to hear from anyone who remembers her.

Good wishes from: Sally Lovelock (Fryett 1965-72).

****1970s****

Sandra (Sandy) Witham (Dale 1971-78). Now in medical market research using her psychology degree and nursing experience to the full. Would like to hear from anyone remembering her. Now at: *18 The Queensway, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 8NB*.

Alice Hudson (1975-79). With her mother (see Staff news) attended Miss Reakes' Memorial Service. Baby Benedict is a few months old and is a brother for Josephine and Catherine. His christening takes place during the Reunion weekend.

Rosemary 'Rosy' Eade (Roberts 1978-82). Baby Matthew was born on 20 January weighing in at 7lb 3oz. He is Rosy's first baby and the first grandchild for her parents. Enjoying her new rôle as a mother and says "very exhausting but great fun!"



We've lost touch with:

We have had enquiries for the following: **Joan Bradbury** (Powley 1930s) – last heard from in the 1960s when she and her husband Derek had a jewellers shop in Southall. **Cynthia Watts, Marjorie Willis, Ann Powell and Kathleen Scally** all 1941. **John Gale** (late 1940s). John attended the Reunion a couple of years ago with friends – did he come with YOU? **Christine Adam** (1952-58). **Mary Lee Bell** (1959-61/2) – joined in the 6th form and possibly American family connections. Also **Astrid Wellard** and **Ruth Blundell** both 1971-78. If you can help us please will you contact either Gwen or Valerie and we will pass on the details.



But we've found:

Several names have come to light this year after a long search, namely: **John Ray** (early 1940s) now living in Rotorua, NZ, **Pat Birnage** (Smith 1949-57), **Diana Watkins** (1949-55), **Brenda Ashton** (1949-55), **Stella Ward** (1949-55), **Julia Stratton** (1949-55) and **Shirley Collins** Apologies to those whose married names have eluded me. VJS.

We have details and addresses on file or know how to find them, so please contact Gwen or Valerie if you wish to get in touch. Likewise, if you see a familiar name and would like details, Gwen or Valerie will be pleased to help.

ARE YOU A FORTY-NINER??

Did you start at the High School in **1949**? Next year will be our 50th anniversary. Do you remember 1B (Mrs Binstead), 1C (Miss Cooke) and 1S Miss Saunderson? Let's have a **great reunion** – I reckon each OP member must still be in touch with at least 2 or 3 other non-members. Come on, let's gather as many as we possibly can and boost the noise level in the Hall. After half a century (!!) let's recall those days again and ask each other "do you remember when...?" Keep the last couple of Saturdays in March 1999 free until the date is confirmed (mid-year). Contact Valerie Storie as below or via the magic e-mail 106077.36@compuserve.com. Do please get in touch, Valerie will keep a note of all the names and keep everyone informed of the date as soon as it becomes known.

The Old Paludians:

Chairman - Kathy Clark

Secretary - Valerie Storie

Treasurer - Gwen Gale